



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

INDOOR AIR QUALITY TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE

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News and Events

- Reminder: The **hotel room block deadline** for the [10th IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium](#) is right around the corner! Be sure to [register](#) today and to [reserve](#) your discounted room rate by **December 15th, 2009!**
- New: [American Board of Industrial Hygiene \(ABIH\) CEUs](#) are now available for the [10th IAQ Tools for Schools National Symposium](#). Attendees can receive up to 2.5 Certification Maintenance (CM) points for their participation. To learn more about other CEUs being offered, view an updated session agenda, and to register, visit the [Symposium Web site](#) today!
- EPA is currently accepting grant applications for its [Environmental Education Grant Program](#). The Program aims to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. Approximately 100 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$200,000 will be awarded. For more information on eligibility and application materials, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>. Apply soon! The application deadline is **December 15, 2009!**

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Sneak Peek into the 10th IAQ Tools for Schools Symposium

Problem-based learning exercises, exclusive networking opportunities and access to leading experts are just a few of the reasons why the 10th IAQ Tools for Schools Symposium is a can't-miss event! The 10th Symposium will: feature hands-on, **problem-based learning exercises** to apply the knowledge attendees gain at the Symposium to real IAQ challenges; examine **individual learning styles on educational outcomes**; and offer a whole host of **new sessions** and **nationally-renowned expert speakers** that will help attendees to leave the Symposium with the knowledge and strategies they need to take action to advance their IAQ management program when they return home.

New sessions

- *Understanding Differences: The Effect of Learning Styles on Educational Outcomes* will explore the relationship between individual learning styles and educational achievement. Effective communication, meaningful learning and a positive dynamic are essential to a high-functioning IAQ Team. This session will show you how to use knowledge about learning styles to change the dynamic of your IAQ Team to achieve lasting IAQ Program success.

- *Schools with Real IAQ Challenges: Finding Solutions Together Through Problem-Based Learning* will allow attendees to apply their unique set of knowledge and skills to create a “game plan” for action to help real school districts to overcome their institutional obstacles and implement effective IAQ management programs. Be prepared to think creatively as you use different learning styles and mediums to help identify solutions to these real-world challenges!
- *Managing Environmental Risks in Schools: Steps You Can Take for Better Health* will highlight asthma and radon, among others, as central environmental health risks in schools and provide real-world examples of what districts are doing to manage these risks. Be prepared to learn the latest facts linking healthy indoor environments to better student health and performance, and take away concrete actions you can implement to reduce environmental risk!

You also won't want to miss

- *Improved Performance and Controlling Radon at the Source* will show attendees a fresh, in-depth approach to managing radon risk in schools. The 10th Symposium is placing a special emphasis on **radon** because January is also National Radon Action Month. Taking action on radon can save lives – learn what you can do at the Symposium!
- Guidance on managing assets and discovering funding mechanisms for IAQ management programs, including how to access stimulus funds, how to effectively budget for facility repairs, and more.
- Awards ceremonies to honor the winners of the [National Excellence](#), [National Model of Sustained Excellence](#), and [National IAQ Tools for Schools Connector Award](#) winners and to unveil the winning student posters of the National Radon Poster Contest.

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In Focus: IAQ Collaborative Design Challenge

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium provides a forum for school districts to network, learn and trade strategies, and discover how to overcome the unique technical and programmatic challenges school districts face when implementing and sustaining comprehensive IAQ management programs.

For the 10th *IAQ Tools for Schools* Symposium, EPA has integrated a new design to enhance each attendee's ability to do just that: apply the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program Framework to real-world challenges so that everyday obstacles don't become roadblocks to success.

The **IAQ Collaborative Design Challenge** is a problem-based learning approach that will help attendees learn how to design effective solutions to IAQ challenges in real-time by applying the knowledge gained at the Symposium to *real* IAQ issues that *real* schools are facing.

Symposium attendees will work in **IAQ Collaborative Design Teams**, cross-functional groups that will mirror the diversity of backgrounds and roles key to any successful IAQ management team. Together, they will apply the [IAQ Tools for Schools Framework](#) to the root challenges facing five **IAQ Design Challenge School Districts** that are working to establish and sustain comprehensive IAQ management programs. These working design sessions will be enriched by a myriad of technical and programmatic [sessions](#) designed to guide Symposium participants through the concrete actions they can take to develop solutions to a variety of IAQ challenges.

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Lighting the Way: Meet the New *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program Faculty School Districts

This year EPA welcomes three new school districts as Faculty [model programs](#) lighting the way for districts nationwide to comprehensively and sustainably manage IAQ. Using these groups as examples, you can start making improvements to your own IAQ management program. Here's how these model programs got started!

[Baltimore County Public Schools \(BCPS\), Baltimore, MD](#)

To establish a sustainable IAQ management program in response to a county resolution, BCPS hired two IAQ experts to lead the charge. Their first order of business was to create an Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee to evaluate the district's IAQ management approach. By leveraging what was already working well in the district and using the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance to fill in any gaps, BCPS developed a community-driven, prevention-focused IAQ management program. Since its inception, the program has yielded many positive outcomes, including:

- Reduced average expenditures on mold remediation activities from \$513,000 to \$150,000 within one year of the programs conception; and
- Significant reduction in both number and severity of IAQ-related work orders and complaints.

[North East Independent School District \(NEISD\), San Antonio, TX](#)

After realizing the prevalence of asthma among its students, NEISD sprung into action to reduce environmental asthma triggers in its facilities and help students stay healthy. NEISD improved coordination among departments, built on its existing IAQ program to incorporate asthma education, and came up with a clear plan to proactively manage the school's indoor environment. Since the transformation, NEISD:

- Cut energy costs by 9.4% in one year by installing Web-based HVAC software, saving \$1.3 million; and
- Implemented proper chemical waste disposal and green cleaning practices, resulting in the removal of 23 cubic yards of chemical waste.

[Newark Public Schools \(NPS\), Newark, NJ](#)

When New Jersey enacted new school IAQ requirements in 2004, NPS – the district with the most school facilities over 100 years old – knew that meeting these requirements would be a challenge. Yet, through extensive planning, organizing and goal-setting, they quickly established a comprehensive IAQ management program. By training staff and forming partnerships with school community members - not to mention their dedication and hard work - NPS achieved IAQ excellence. As a result, NPS:

- Experienced fewer and less severe IAQ problems; and
- Has won the Facilities Masters Award from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) for four consecutive years, the only school district in the world to attain that honor.

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Have Your Questions Answered!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ TFS* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a Webinar, an Update feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an e-mail at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Update. E-mail your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

If you like what you're reading, maybe a friend or colleague would too – forward this e-mail! To subscribe to *IAQ TFS* Updates, send an e-mail to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.

The *IAQ TFS* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ TFS* Program at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools.

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